

**M. P.**

The Mississauga News

# slams taxi situation

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**DON BLENKARN**

Mississauga Member of Parliament Don Blenkarn has again complained in Parliament about the unlicensed taxi situation at International Airport. And while Solicitor General Warren Allmand agrees that a problem exists, he discounted figures previously given by Mr. Blenkarn to support his argument.

Mr. Blenkarn, in his most recent confrontation, told the Speaker of the House that "if you were to decide ... to drive to the International Airport, you, too, could become a taxi driver.

"All you would need to do to operate legally is to put 25 cents into what is called the spitter; this would satisfy the Minister of Transport and you could pick up passengers. In addition you could surcharge any fare as you felt was desirable, and it would not be necessary for you to have a meter."

Mr. Blenkarn said the problem results from a 1973

judgement of His Honor Judge Shapiro of the Peel County court. The judgement removed licensing authority from the then Town of Mississauga, throwing the airport open to any cab driver who wanted to work there.

The Mississauga MP said the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) at the airport have "an impossible situation to deal with. They have to arrest and charge people trying to earn a living."

It was on the latter point that Mr. Allmand

against the RCMP, as Mr. Blenkarn had stated.

"During the last three years only four charges of any kind were preferred against members of the force. Two of those charges were withdrawn, and three remain to be heard by the courts. One will be heard in January and two will be heard in March."

Mr. Allmand then admitted, however, that a problem exists and also noted the conflict between the taxi cab owners and drivers of Airline Terminal Transport which operates the limousine service to the